

Town of Princeton Environmental Action Committee (EAC)

Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:09pm

Committee members present (via WebEx):

Corey Burnham-Howard (CBH), Claire Golding (GC), Phil Gott (PG), Chris Samoiloff (CS)

Public Comment: Helga Lyons as Advisory Committee Liaison in attendance. Helga reported that the Advisory Committee voted to recommend adoption of the Stretch Energy Code. She also reported that the Advisory Committee had not yet made a decision on whether to support Town request to budget funds for municipal building energy audits.

Review & Approve Minutes from June 3, 2020 Meeting:

- **MOTION** to approve as amended with minor edits
Motion: PG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0

Communications and EAC Webpage Updates

- CS provided updates.
 - CS created a Stretch Energy Code information page, which includes links to Stretch Energy Code information
 - CS reported that EAC agenda and minutes cannot be posted by her to EAC webpage but must be sent to Town Clerk for posting
 - CS created first draft EAC Newsletter: “The Green News”. CS wants to publish this newsletter regularly and send it out to subscribers. EAC members discussed newsletter and appreciated format and CS efforts. EAC members discussed content: PG suggested including a reference to a site in Sutton that accepts hazardous waste and CS said she would explore that suggestion. EAC members discussed best time to release first issue.
 - **MOTION** to complete and submit for “publication” first version of newsletter to Town Clerk for Town News notice within the coming week.
 - Motion: CG; 2d: PG; Vote: 4-0
- PG will check “suggested reading” links on EAC webpages to ensure they remain valid links

Green Communities Designation Application

- CBH provided update that she presented on the proposed Stretch Energy Code at the Advisory Committee’s Warrant Article Hearing.
- EAC members gave input on and discussed draft Stretch Energy Code Frequently Asked Questions handout for Town Meeting.
- EAC members discussed CBH presentation content/format on Stretch Energy Code at Town Meeting.
- EAC members discussed CBH presentation content regarding Town Meeting Warrant article asking for Town to fund municipal building energy audits.
- EAC discussed whether to support Town Meeting Warrant article asking for up to \$25,000 proposed by Selectboard asking Town to fund the municipal building energy audits. CBH noted new information that Municipal Energy Technical Assistance Funds would now likely not be

released until September, and that waiting for such funds to perform energy audits would likely mean Town would be unable to meet Green Community designation application deadline (now expected to be December 2020). CBH also discussed that GDS Associates had been asked to provide an updated quote for municipal building energy audits with removal of Public Safety Building and Town Hall Annex—given their likely decommissioning within 5 years—as well as a pricing breakout based on scope of work. CBH noted that there was expectation that the quote would therefore be lower. CBH noted that the Selectboard advocates funding municipal energy audits now as an investment in obtaining grant funds sooner. Light Commissioners voted to fund half of the energy audit cost if the Stretch Energy Code adoption passes at Town Meeting.

- **MOTION:** EAC supports the steps necessary to become a Green Community, which includes adopting the Stretch Energy Code Bylaw and performing municipal building energy audits.
 - **MOTION:** CG; 2d: CS; Vote: 4-0.

Waste/Recycling

- CG provided update that she has received no reply to her request for information from Terri Longtine of the Board of Health (BOH) on any action/first meeting of the new Waste/Recycling Study Committee.

Municipal Vulnerability Planning (MVP) Program

- PG provided update.
 - o No new information or updates. Everything has been postponed until September 2020, including the virtual Community Resilience Building Workshop (CRBW) sessions and next steps.

Princeton Municipal Light Department (PMLD)

- PG provided update.
 - o PG noted Brian Allen resigned as PMLD Manager as of 7/3.
 - o Light Commissioners hired an interim manager for PMLD.
 - o Light Commissioners hired a firm to find new PMLD manager candidates.
 - o PMLD reports that it is financially sound.

H.4650/H.4751-An Act to Mitigate Arbovirus in the Commonwealth

- CS reported that Toxics Action Center would be holding a meeting on this bill on 6/28/2020.

ACTION: CS to update EAC members on H. 4751 at July 1, 2020 EAC meeting.

Other Business:

- EAC member Phoebe Moore (PM) is taking a leave of absence from the EAC for the summer.
 - o CG confirmed with Town Clerk that an EAC quorum remains at 3 EAC members
 - o EAC members discussed need for concerted effort to get more EAC members, and desire for members with grant writing experience, environmental profession, and/or constructive attitude

MOTION to accept PM's request for leave of absence.
Motion: PG; 2d: CG; Vote: 4-0.
- Members discussed meeting times going forward and agreed on 7p start time.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting (July 1, 2020 at 7p via online forum)

- Public Comment
- Review and Approve Minutes of June 17, 2020
- Green Communities Designation Application Updates
- MVP Program Updates
- PMLD Updates
- Waste and Recycling Updates
- Communications Updates
- Revisions to EAC Town Webpage
- Agenda items for Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

MOTION to adjourn.

Motion: CG; 2d: PG; Vote: 4-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Corey Burnham-Howard